CULTURE IN THE SOUTHERN SECTION - Mrs. Owen Craig

There is a touch of Fall in the air and now the yearly task of preparing our Hibiscus for the cold days that may be ahead must be done.

By this time most of us have already taken such steps by using a high potash, low nitrogen fertilizer such as 0-8-8, 0-12-12 or 0-20-20. Any of these will slow up tender growth and harden your plants so they will be more tolerant of the cold.

At this time I also think it a good idea to see that your plants are in tip-top condition by taking care of aphids, scale, slugs, ants and other insect problems. This can be accomplished by two sprayings ten days apart. Be sure in using oil sprays to do the work late in the afternoon or on cloudy days as oil and hot sun just don't mix. It is a good idea to see that the ground around your plants is in a good moist condition before the spraying.

A good dust around your plants will finish off your job and will take care of ants, cut worms, slugs and snails. These fellows can do a lot of damage and if taken care of now you will be that far ahead when Spring comes.

We seldom have to worry about a freeze in this section but if frost is predicted, turn your water on and wet the ground good. Before the sun is up after a frost be sure to wash all frost off your Hibiscus and they will be none the worse.

Now that your Hibiscus are bedded down for the cold weather let us all go fishing and lazily look forward to next Spring and Summer when our Hibiscus are beginning to put on a colorful show and we are all back together again in the warm friendliness that goes with our Hibiscus shows.

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CULTURE FOR THE CENTRAL AREA - L. K. Thompson

For those of us in exposed locations, Jack Frost is just ahead. Many articles of advice have appeared in past issues of the Seed Pod, but briefly they may be given to you again.

1. For large yard plants, shield from NW wind if possible, this will help to cut down on the de-hydration of foliage and small twigs.

2. Bank with earth at least one foot high around base of plants, after removing mulch. Use a handful of 5% chlordane near the base of the plant to discourage termites and ants.

3. Use no nitrate fertilizer after October 1st. A nutritional spray high in potash may also serve to make plants dormant.

4. Plants in containers should be placed in shelterd locations and heated if possible. Do not try to cover up plants in containers standing upright. Lay the plants down and cover with plastic or other material and cover this lightly with straw if extreme cold seems likely. It is not much trouble to remove the cover and stand the plants upright again. A great many plants may be protected in this way in a small area and no damage will result from broken limbs.

The next few weeks should find your seeding under way. Try to produce as many seed as possible and make our seed bank operation a success again. Any surplus seed will reach careful hands.

Around my plants, I frequently use a scuffle hoe in weeding. I have noticed that frequent slight cutting of the trunk below or at the ground will eventually create a growthof scar tissue that appears to weaken the plant. So try to pull the close weeds and keep the hoe several inches away from the trunk.

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